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THE DREAM MATCH

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OC Transpo tackles estimated $11.5M deficit

High costs, low revenue blamed for shortfall

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

From freezing pen budgets to cutting five management positions, OC Transpo is trying to tackle an $11.5-million deficit this year.

The sizeable shortfall is outlined in a mid-year budget report tabled at the transit commission on Monday. Higher insurance claims, the costs of maintenance parts and lower fare revenues are to blame, according to the report.

John Manconi, general manager of transit services, told commissioners that ridership levels have held steady at 97 million customer trips per year. This is lower than expected for 2015 and the reason for the $1.7-million fare revenue shortfall.

OC Transpo is still trying to figure out why ridership levels are stagnant, but unemployment, weather and gas prices are usually the largest factors on passenger flow. City transit authorities also suggested that several jobs have relocated outside the downtown core and are therefore more difficult to access by bus. Others wondered if telecommuting, an increase in cycling infrastructure and steady parking rates also play into ridership levels.

“Nothing’s a silo. It all works in combination,” transit commission chairman Stephen Blais later said.

“Is it a problem for OC Transpo? It creates a problem, financially; we just have to change the way we budget.”

What this means for the 2016 budget and fare revenues has yet to play out. In 2011, the city adopted the transit affordability plan, which set fare increases at 2.5 per cent per year to pay for light rail.

Commissioner Blair Crew said he would rather see lower transit fares and a higher tax rate.

But Manconi later said he would rather avoid the “large swings,” which once led to a whopping seven per cent fare increase.

“You can do the short term thing and keep fare increases low — it’s going to catch up to you at some point,” he said.

In a memo later sent to transit commissioners, city clerk Rick O’Connor said severance pay for the five chopped management positions, combined, totalled $633,509.07.

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Cabbies question industry

MARKET

Taxi plates being sold for up to '$300K'

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

The ongoing taxi dispute with Uber playing out in Ottawa has led some cabbies to question the industry, which they say has become a buyers' and sellers' market.

Owning and leasing a taxi plate can be somewhat of a lucrative business. Some listed on Kijiji are being sold for as much as $250,000.

But for many taxi drivers, like Ahmed Mastoor, who leases a portion of his Capital Taxi plate from Coventry Connections, owning his own plate would be nearly impossible. "If I want to buy it from Coventry, they're going to sell it for me for $300,000," he said.

Instead, he said he pays $883 per month to lease a portion of the plate. His fellow drivers who rent the full amount of their plates pay upwards of $1,500 per month, according to Mastoor.

On top of the monthly fee to Coventry Connections, Mastoor says he pays the taxi operator monthly payments of $518 for a dispatch fee and $555 for commercial insurance.

He thinks the monthly $883 fee he pays should go to the city, which issues the plate, instead of the owner.

"The city is in (a) $40 million deficit right now. They're struggling right now. If they don't need it, who needs it?" he said. "That could help a lot."

But Philip Powell, the city's manager of licensing, permits and markets, said in an interview that even though the city remains the owner of the plates it issues, the plate owner becomes the licensee.

"The Municipal Act allows municipalities to charge licensing fees in particular.... Our licensing fees are based on what it cost us to deliver our service, not market value," he said.

Coventry Connections vice-president Andrew Way and his family reportedly own 87 plates, while the operator's president Hanif Patni told Metro on Monday it owns 65 plates.

Patni said the money that comes from the rental plate fees comes to Coventry so the operator can run the business.

"We pay the city from the industry about $1,325,000 a year in (driver's) license and (plate) renewal fees," he said.

"Coventry has invested massive amounts of money in this business. It's a multi-million-dollar corporation," he said.

While individual families own large numbers of plates, Patni said most plates are owned by individual drivers.

Capital Taxi cabs line the road by the picket line outside the Coventry Connections head office on Coventry Road.
JOE LOFARO/METRO

BY THE NUMBERS

Ottawa's taxi plates

- There are currently 1,188 taxi cabs in use in the City of Ottawa, including 187 accessible cabs that can accommodate passengers in wheelchairs or a scooter.
- The number of licensed taxi drivers hovers around 2,600.
- The last time the city issued a new taxi plate was in 2013 based on a population increase.
- Since 2006, only accessible taxi plates have been issued due to a city commitment to ensure a proper inventory of accessible vehicles for those with special needs.
- There is one taxi cab for each 784 City of Ottawa residents, a rule that has been in place since amalgamation.
- To own a taxi plate, someone must own a valid Ontario driver's license and obtain a criminal record check.

CITY OF OTTAWA

RIDE-SHARING

Man who threatened Uber driver steps aside

Blueline Taxi said one of its drivers will step aside from his job after he was caught on film berating and threatening an apparent Uber driver and his passenger.

The video has prompted an Ottawa police investigation after it went viral online, catching the attention of U.S. website Gawker.

"You think I'm joking? If I see you again, you're dead meat. Go follow the law and get a real job," says the Blueline driver to the driver of the other vehicle in the profanity-laden video.

Coventry Connections said in a statement on Monday the driver is cooperating with the police and city authorities.

"At this time, the driver has volunteered to withdraw from working as a taxi driver until the review can be completed by all parties and after full assessment of the authorities," the statement read.

Mayor Jim Watson condemned the video over the weekend and accused the driver of bullying.

"Mayor Watson has seen the video and is completely disgusted with the vulgar behaviour of the individual... Mayor Watson believes that the vast majority of cab drivers are hard-working, honest people and their good reputations are tarnished when we witness this kind of activity," wrote the mayor's spokesperson in an email to Metro on Monday.

Meanwhile, there are rumblings online of a large anti-Uber protest planned for Sept. 16 around the world, including Ottawa. JOE LOFARO/METRO

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Wynne calls on union to reveal why deal rejected

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Elementary school teachers hold out after others accept

There were no signs Monday of a quick resumption of contract talks between the Ontario government, public-school boards and the union representing elementary teachers.

Premier Kathleen Wynne angered the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) when she insisted it was up to the union to say why it won't accept an offer that was tentatively accepted by two other teachers' unions.

Agreements reached in August with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) and the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) have not been ratified but contain raises of 1.5 per cent plus another one-per-cent bonus.

"I think the onus is on the leadership of ETFO to explain why the substance of that agreement that has been the core of the agreement with OSSTF and OECTA is not good enough for their membership," said Wynne.

"My prime concern is that kids, teachers and support staff be in school, because I know that's where they want to be."

Talks with the Elementary Teachers' Federation broke off again on Friday, despite what union president Sam Hammond described as "slow, slow progress" during seven days at the table.

Wynne wants to impose a deal on the elementary teachers, the same way former premier Dalton McGuinty imposed a settlement with a wage freeze in 2012, said Hammond.

"Ms. Wynne might want a quick deal to help Mr. Trudeau's chances in the federal election, but we actually want a deal that works for teachers and students," he said.

It's "not acceptable" for the premier to go to the media to pressure the union into accepting contract details she made public, added Hammond.

> **Let's stay out of the media and get back to the table and bargain.**
> ETFO president Sam Hammond

"We are waiting for the government to pick up the phone and return to the table as soon as possible," he said. "Let's stay out of the media and get back to the table and bargain."

Hammond warned that the work-to-rule campaign elementary teachers started when classes began last week, which means no parent-teacher meetings and no class trips, would expand further if there's no deal in the next few days.

"We are preparing to escalate our strike action if there is no change on the part of the government and the (Ontario Public School Boards Association) in the next few days," he said. "We hope the Wynne government and boards will come to their senses."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier Kathleen Wynne on Monday at the opening of the fall session of the Ontario legislature. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local talks to continue

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

While provincial bargaining is stalled, local elementary-school teachers and the school boards continue to work on a new contract.

Peter Giuliani, president of the Ottawa-Carleton Elementary Teachers' Federation, said local bargaining dates are set for this week.

"We'll continue with local bargaining and get as much in place as we can," he said.

"The school district has scheduled bargaining dates, and we remain committed to negotiating a fair and fully funded local agreement as quickly as possible," said Sharlene Hunter, the OCDSB's media-relations officer.

Work-to-rule conditions will remain in place until things can be resolved on a provincial level.

Sam Hammond, president of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, warned Monday that work-to-rule restrictions would escalate if progress wasn't made.

"Although I don't know what stage three would be, I'd be very surprised if it was a move to actual walk-out," said Giuliani.

For parents, main concerns are often field trips, teacher consultations and extra-curriculars. While teachers are not collecting money, fundraising or distributing paperwork, extra-curriculars such as clubs and sports teams are continuing as usual.

There are no field trips being planned, but Giuliani said that doesn't rule out trips for the entire year.

"A lot of field trips tend to be end-of-the-year things. A lot of teachers aren't planning field trips until after December," he said.

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Chief Electoral Officer Marc Mayrand says for most electors, voting should take about 10 minutes. Eager voters can visit any Elections Canada office to cast their ballot until Oct. 13. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Youth vote gets ramped up

ELECTIONS CANADA

Agency links with Facebook to reach wider demographic

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

At the midway point of the federal election campaign, Elections Canada is ramping up efforts to reach people who haven't yet registered to vote.

The agency is teaming up with Facebook to target those who recently moved and first-time voters — the groups most likely to need to register or update their voter information.

On Tuesday, a notification will appear in the Facebook news feeds of all Canadians over 18, prompting them to update their voter information.

"With 20 million Canadians on Facebook, we know that we can be a very helpful civic engagement platform," said Kevin Chan, Facebook Canada's head of policy. "We expect to reach millions of Canadians this way."

The notification will include a link to Elections Canada's website, which for the first time has an online registration service where voters can update their information.

"If you are one of the more than 600,000 Canadians who will be moving during this election, this service is perfect for you," Elections Canada chief electoral officer Marc Mayrand said at a news conference Monday.

"We want all Canadians to know just how easy and convenient it is to vote."

COURT

Top aide was helping girlfriend, trial told

A former top aide to Prime Minister Stephen Harper was trying to help a girlfriend leave her escort past behind when he got involved in trying to persuade the government to buy water systems from a company that employed her, a court heard Monday.

Bruce Carson has pleaded not guilty to a charge of influence peddling in a trial that Harper's opponents are using to question the prime minister's judgment in making appointments.

Bruce Carson
FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Ottawa court heard that Carson testified he was merely trying to help when he offered to assist an Ottawa-based company, H2O Water Professionals, in getting meetings in 2010 and 2011 with government officials.

> **It's all about a pretty girl.**
> Crown Attorney Jason Nicol

But Crown Attorney Jason Nicol told the Ontario Superior Court of Justice Carson wasn't some altruistic figure trying to help H2O Pros clinch a deal to sell water purification equipment to First Nations communities desperate to fix tainted water problems.

Instead, Nicol said Carson wanted to help his then-fiancee, Michele McPherson, leave her former life as an escort.

"It's all about a pretty girl," Nicol said as he read from the thick binders of evidence presented at Carson's preliminary hearing, which were formally submitted Monday as evidence at his trial.

"She's the only reason we're all in this," Carson said of McPherson in an email he sent to the owner of H2O Pros where he raised the issue of providing a commission for her.

Carson was a senior adviser to the prime minister from 2006, when the Conservatives first took office, to 2008.

The trial, which was extended until Tuesday after its start was delayed Monday, is proving to be yet another legal distraction for the Harper government as it campaigns for re-election. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Brazeau to appear in court
Suspended Sen. Patrick Brazeau is set to defend himself on charges of assault and cocaine possession in a Gatineau courthouse on Tuesday morning.

The charges stem from an April 2014 incident that allegedly involved another man and a woman.

Several media outlets are reporting that Brazeau is expected to change his plea to guilty.

Brazeau is also facing charges of fraud and breach of trust in connection to his senate expense claims. That trial will begin next year. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

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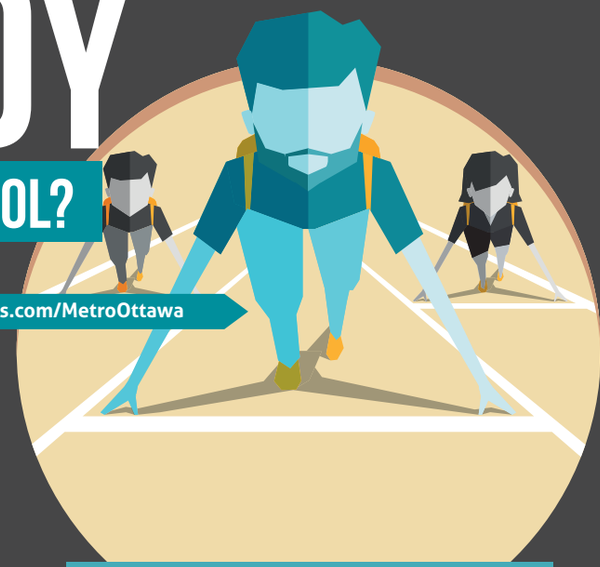

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5 THINGS ART/ANTIQUE APPRAISERS ARE LOOKING AT

A treasured piece of art passed down through the years has sentimental value — but could also have value in cold, hard cash. Consignor Canadian Fine Art invites Ottawa residents to drop in for an open-house appraisal day, Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. "It's very much in the vein of the Antiques Roadshow," said Rob Cowley, president of the Consignor Canadian Fine Art. You can bring up to three works of art at a cost of $5 per appraisal, with proceeds going to the Ottawa Art Gallery. It's a good idea to book an appointment. Cowley reveals the Top 5 things appraisers will be considering:

HALEY RITCHIE METRO

1 Family stories

Believe it or not, the story behind a painting can play a role in its value. Cowley gives the example of a William Kurelek painting found at a similar appraisal day in Toronto — it ended up being worth $41,400. The painting wasn't bought at a gallery, but it was a gift from the artist after he was offered some authentic Ukrainian strudel. Kurelek said the dessert was better than his mother's, and to thank the family who offered it to him, he gave them the painting.

2 Print or original?

Cowley said the first thing to look at is whether the art is an original or a decorative print. The word "print" is a large category, but a poster of a Tom Thomson painting is naturally worth less than the original. Many paintings are reproduced as posters and commonly sold in art galleries or museums. These have little to no value to collectors..

3 Subject matter

If a painting is by a well-known artist, subject matter can have a huge impact on the piece's value. For example, Group of Seven landscapes are highly desirable. Group of Seven still lifes (think flower arrangements or fruit in a bowl) still have value, but are worth much less.

4 Condition

If your painting is damaged — a rip or missing paint — it will have a major effect on the price point. The more untouched, the better: a reminder to take care of artworks around the house.

5 Who's who?

It goes without saying that some artists' work is more popular and more valuable than others. Just because you don't recognize a name doesn't mean the piece is worthless. If you can make out the signature, a quick Google search will give you a hint as to how an artist's prominence.

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Ottawa's artistic connections

Cowley has run events from coast to coast, including other major cities like Vancouver, Calgary and Halifax. He said each location tends to be distinctive and certain items and artists are more likely to turn up.

"You do find that the staples of Canadian art, think Group of Seven, you can find those essentially anywhere," said Cowley. "But sometimes you do run into works that have a connection to the area."

In Halifax, for example, folk painter Maud Lewis is more common. Vancouver residents might be more likely to own an Emily Carr.

> **"You do find that the staples of Canadian art – think Group of Seven – you can find those essentially anywhere.**
> Rob Cowley

Ottawa has its own local art connections.

Group of Seven artist A.Y. Jackson, for example, lived in Manotick from 1957 to 1962. Jackson's works now regularly sell for thousands of dollars.

While his work is widely collected, pieces are more likely to show up in Ottawa because of his background in the area.

Another example of an artist with an Ottawa connection is Henri Masson, a painter born in Belgium in 1907 who lived most of his life in Ottawa.

Some of Masson's paintings now reside in the National Gallery.

"If there were galleries locally that sold certain artists and where collectors were patrons, then you're looking at a sign that those artists you'll find in one area," he said.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

Dutch elm disease kills 40 trees

Confederation Boulevard hit hard

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

The National Capital Commission began work Monday cutting down dying elm trees along Confederation Boulevard.

Forty trees are slated for removal, including 21 along Wellington Street, 10 on Elgin Street and nine on Gatineau's Laurier Street.

The process is expected to last three weeks, according to the NCC.

On Monday a crew of arborists were out with chainsaws starting to remove branches from barren trees at the western edge of Wellington Street.

The death of the trees was caused by Dutch elm disease, a fatal fungus that affects the roots. According to the NCC, the disease entered North America in the 1930s and began killing Ottawa trees in the 1970s.

The decay has been slow, and the NCC said it had attempted to prolong the life of many of the elms for more than a decade.

The removal of trees is not related to the emerald ash borer, a parasite affecting some ash trees.

The dead trees are being removed now because they "constitute a safety hazard for pedestrians and motorists" according to an NCC release.

Road closures may result from some of the work, and pedestrians and drivers are warned to steer clear of safety barriers.

New trees are to be planted to replace the old ones.

An arborist uses a chainsaw to bring down a dying elm along Wellington Street on Monday afternoon. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

MUSIC FESTIVAL

CityFolk to tune in at Lansdowne Park

Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

If you ask Mark Monahan what most excites him about at the new site of his CityFolk festival, he'll talk your ear off.

The executive and artistic director of Ottawa's premier folk music festival gave a handful of reporters and camera crews a sneak peek of the new site at Lansdowne Park and he had plenty to say about the features spots like the Great Lawn, the Aberdeen Pavilion and the Horticulture Building.

Monahan touted the site's proximity to downtown, adding that ticket sales are way up from last year.

"It's a great location, it's accessible by public transit, but also, it's right along the canal, so people can bike here. It's a very green space in terms of how people might get here and it's a place that people are excited to come to."

The paid site of CityFolk will spread out across the Great Lawn at Lansdowne, a wide-open field flanked by beer tents and anchored by one festival main stage that will accommodate about 12,000 music fans.

Main headliners like Van Morrison, The Avett Brothers and Of Monsters and Men will be on the main stage while smaller bands like Wintersleep and Lee Harvey Osmond will take over the Horticulture Building.

But don't shy away from the smaller stage, as Monahan says there is some real buzz around some of the up-and-coming bands at the festival, namely Alabama-based soul seven piece, St. Paul and the Broken Bones, who are being hailed today as the white James Brown.

CityFolk gets underway Wednesday when '70s rockers The Tubes hit the main stage at 7 p.m.

For a full schedule, visit www.cityfolkfestival.com.

Artistic director Mark Monahan leans on his cruiser ahead of the fest's launch at its new site. TREVOR GREENWAY/FOR METRO

IN BRIEF

CHEO Runway for Hope set for Sunday Sept. 27

Ottawa's children's hospital is getting dressed for fundraising success.

The fourth edition of the CHEO Runway for Hope is taking place at 6 p.m. Sept. 27 at the Lansdowne Park Horticultural building.

Twelve local fashion designers will be showing off their designs and 15 different local vendors will be promoting their businesses.

Tickets are $35 and proceeds go toward CHEO cancer research and the purchase of new hospital equipment. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

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Watson seeks Sens game near Senate

HOCKEY

Outdoor event could celebrate NHL's 100th, Canada's 150th

Mayor Jim Watson wants to see the Ottawa Senators play on the lawn right next to the home of Canada's Senate.

"The Senators versus the Montreal Canadiens could be the end to the 2017 celebrations," Watson said on Monday, referring to the year-long party planned for Canada's 150th birthday.

Watson said an outdoor NHL hockey game may be in the cards for Ottawa in 2017, and TD Place and LeBreton Flats are possibilities.

"But Parliament Hill would be the most dramatic venue," he said.

> **Parliament Hill would be the most dramatic venue.**
> Mayor Jim Watson

The game would likely be played against the Montreal Canadiens, on or close to the 100th anniversary of the first NHL game, played on Dec. 19, 1917.

In that match, the Canadiens beat the Ottawa Senators 7-4.

Watson said he met with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman a year ago to express interest in a 2017 outdoor game, but the match has yet to be confirmed.

The Senators have since pitched in $500,000 toward Ottawa's 2017 celebrations.

NEVIL HUNT/METROLAND MEDIA

The mayor wants to see a Sens-Habs contest played on the lawn of the national landmark. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

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THE TUBES FEAT. FEE WAYBILL, THE SHEEPDOGS,
PATRICK WATSON, WALK OFF THE EARTH, LORD HURON,
ELLE KING, LISA LEBLANC, LUCINDA WILLIAMS, KITTY, DAISY & LEWIS,
ST. PAUL & THE BROKEN BONES, AMY HELM & THE HANDSOME STRANGERS,
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LEGISLATURE

Opposition resumes Hydro One barrage

Ontario's Liberal government is delaying the sale of its largest electricity-transmission utility because it will hurt federal Liberals campaigning for the Oct. 19 election, the provincial NDP charged Monday.

The Progressive Conservatives and New Democrats oppose the sale of Hydro One, and both warned the government that public-opinion surveys show the vast majority of Ontario voters are against it as well.

"One of the things they've decided to do is delay the release of the (Hydro One) prospectus to protect Justin Trudeau from any negative outcomes," said NDP Leader Andrea Horwath.

The opposition parties warn the Hydro One sale will lead to even higher electricity prices in a province that has some of the highest rates in Canada.

"Thousands of Ontarians firmly believe that this proposal will raise hydro rates, making life more and more unaffordable," said PC Leader Patrick Brown, who took the oath of office as the new MPP for Simcoe North on Monday after winning a byelection Sept. 3.

The legislature resumed sitting for the first time since June. Brown started his first question period as Official Opposition leader by asking the Liberals to "hit the pause button" on the Hydro One sale.

Finance Minister Charles Sousa declined to answer questions about the timing of the Hydro One sale but rejected claims it was delayed to protect the federal Liberals.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PC Leader Patrick Brown walks through the foyer of Queen's Park following his swearing-in ceremony as a member of the legislature on Monday. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Man in custody linked to armed gas-station robbery

A Gatineau man has been charged in connection with a gas-station robbery in Ottawa's east end.

Ottawa police say a patrol officer arrested the man on Sept. 11 as part of an investigation into an unrelated theft. The man was then linked to the gas-station robbery.

Police say the man entered a gas station near Cyrville Road and St. Laurent Boulevard in the early morning hours of Aug. 23 with a knife in his hand. They say the man jumped onto the counter, demanded the cashier hand over cash and cigarettes and then fled the store.

Jean Larabie, 52, is charged with one court of robbery. He appeared in court Sept. 12 and was held in custody. He was scheduled to appear in court again on Monday. METRO

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Fiscal good news for Harper

ELECTION 2015

Balanced budget boosts Tory electoral prospects

Hard new numbers about the past performance of the economy gave way to crystal-ball gazing Monday on the campaign trail as the major party leaders all took a shot at forecasting the future.

For Stephen Harper, weeks of buffeting bad news was washed away by a report tallying the final budget bottom line for the last fiscal year: a surprise $1.9 billion surplus.

The timing of the 2014-15 surplus announcement from Finance Canada — the first after six consecutive budget deficits — couldn't be better for Harper, with the Conservative, NDP and Liberal leaders set to face off later this week in a Calgary election debate on the economy.

The shot of fiscal adrenaline had the prime minister in fine fettle at a Kamloops, B.C., campaign stop, where he brushed off the mild economic contraction that marked the first half of 2015 and asserted that robust growth and good budgetary times are ahead.

"I see zero to little risk that we will have anything other than a surplus for the second year in a row, based on the trajectory we are on," said Harper.

Across the country in Toronto, Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau was looking at the same numbers and reaching a very different conclusion.

"Mr. Harper has put us in deficit this year. As for last year's numbers, we know and we saw Mr. Harper underspending and making cuts to Veterans Affairs, to Aboriginal Affairs, to seniors in the billions of dollars so that he could balance the books in time for his election."

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair, meanwhile, called the 2014-15 surplus "good news for Canadians and it shows that the NDP's going to be starting off on the right foot by proposing to have a balanced budget, talking to Canadians about what we can accomplish together in health care (and) quality, affordable $15-a day child care."

Economic forecasts by campaigning party leaders are notoriously self-interested and suspect.

Harper was spectacularly wrong in October 2008 with his election campaign prediction that if Canada was going to suffer a recession, it would have happened by then. He also vowed not to run deficits.

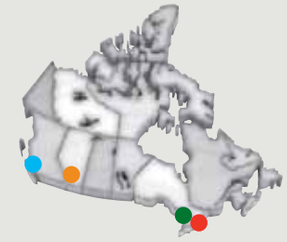
As it turned out, a devastating global economic meltdown was already underway and the Conservatives were already in deficit en route to a $55.6-billion shortfall in 2009-10 that was the largest in Canadian history. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conservative Leader Stephen Harper speaks to supporters Monday in Kamloops, B.C.
RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

$1.9 billion

The federal budget surplus for FY2014-2015.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHERE THE LEADERS ARE TUESDAY



- **Justin Trudeau** will be in Waterloo, Ont.
- **Tom Mulcair** will be in Calgary and Lethbridge, Alta.
- **Elizabeth May** will be in Guelph, Ont.

Stephen Harper's itinerary was unavailable.

BID DEADLINE

No Toronto Olympics

Toronto will not be hosting the 2024 Summer Olympics, with Mayor John Tory deciding not to enter the city into the competitive bid process, Torstar News Service has learned.

The mayor's office would not confirm Tory's position ahead of the deadline to submit a formal letter to the International Olympic Committee by 6 p.m. Tuesday, but two sources with knowledge of the decision say after weeks of deliberation the talks of a bid are now over.

Tory was scheduled to make the announcement in front of city hall Tuesday morning.

The decision was made after Tory received a lack of corporate enthusiasm and no firm support from the province. Key potential sponsors have also been lukewarm to backing a Toronto bid to host the mega sporting event.

Tory has spent the last few weeks consulting and gathering information on the pros and cons of mounting a bid, which he has said should be "largely financed by the private sector." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Munk resists giving languages equal time

The federal Liberal and New Democartic Party leaders are reviewing a final Munk Debate proposal before they formally accept the foreign affairs debate.

Both Justin Trudeau and Tom Mulcair have made their participation in all of the national election debates conditional on having an equal number in French and English.

The Conservatives said Stephen Harper will participate.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Indonesia fights accused Canadian teacher's release

Prosecutors in Indonesia have filed an appeal of a court decision which cleared a Canadian teacher of child sexual offences in the country..

Neil Bantleman had been serving a 10-year prison sentence when the August ruling resulted in his release, although he remained under a travel ban.

His brother said the latest step in the 45-year-old's legal battle means Bantleman isn't allowed to return to Canada.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

ALBERTA

Girl, 2, abducted, father found dead

An Amber Alert has been issued after a young girl was reportedly abducted from her home in a community 200 kilometres southwest of Calgary.

Crowsnest Pass RCMP say Hailey Dunbar-Blanchette, 2, was abducted by an unknown person today at 3:30 a.m. from the town of Blairmore, Alta. The suspect vehicle fled to the west, RCMP say, at a high rate of speed.

RCMP found the body of Terry Blanchette, 27, in his home. They are investigating it as a murder.

The suspect's vehicle is a newer model white van, with a large rear antenna and attached flag.

Blanchette is white, female, with a small build, light brown, straight hair with bangs and brown eyes.

Anyone with information is asked to call: Crowsnest Pass RCMP 403-562-2866.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDUCATION

University can be steep learning curve for students with disabilities

Lucy Haines
For Metro

Fourteen years ago this week, I sent my son Christopher off to kindergarten with the same bittersweet anticipation every parent feels: Will he manage alright? Will he make friends?

This week, Christopher started his first semester at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology to study computers and information technology and I've got much the same worry as I did a dozen years ago: Will this be good for him? How will he handle the change?

Chris has Asperger's Syndrome, a type of pervasive developmental disorder (PDD) similar to autism that mostly inhibits the ability to socialize and communicate, though his intelligence and language development are normal.

In Alberta, children in grades K-12 have access to educational assistants and individualized programs, as Chris did, but at 18 the adult world of post-secondary education offers fewer supports and much more frustration.

Some 19 institutes across Alberta offer post-secondary opportunities for people with disabilities — 32 supported spaces in Edmonton under the Inclusion Alberta program at Norquest College, MacEwan University, NAIT, Concordia, Kings and more — but spots become available only sporadically and students can only attend classes with hopes of getting a certificate of completion, but not a diploma or degree.

Leah McRorie had to be her daughter's advocate, working with the department of music at MacEwan University to allow her 21 year-old daughter Taisa, who has Cerebral Palsy and is nonverbal, to attend the program.

"The learning curve is huge for universities. Many programs have no ability to offer a spot to someone with a disability. Our daughter hired her own aides to make it happen. She's just asking for the same opportunity as anyone else," said McRorie.

Last year, some 1,500 NAIT students identified as having a disability. That's a 20 per cent increase from the previous year, according to NAIT's manager of Services for Students with Disabilities, Wendy Marusin.

The school offers study skill workshops, extra time or alternate formats for exams and helps with issues such as time and stress management.

My son, Chris said time will tell if he needs help navigating life as a NAIT student, whether it's keeping up with course material or handling being late for class due to bus or LRT delays.

"I haven't figured out if this is what I want to do for my future, but I just want to pursue further education for its own sake," he said. "I'm glad there's help here if I need it."

Navigating a campus, figuring out bus and LRT schedules and even taking notes can be difficult tasks for students with disabilities.
LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO

MISSISSIPPI

Professor killed on university campus

A professor was killed in his office at Delta State University in Mississippi, and investigators are searching for another school employee in connection with the killing, officials said Monday.

Cleveland Police Chief Charles (Buster) Bingham said authorities have identified Shannon Lamb as a "person of interest" in the shooting of history professor Ethan Schmidt. Lamb is no longer believed to be on the Delta State campus.

Bingham also said police have information suggesting Lamb may have been involved in another slaying in the south Mississippi city of Gautier, about 580 kilometres away, where a woman was found dead in her home.

The 3,500-student university was put on lockdown amid reports of an active shooter. Everyone on campus was told to take shelter, away from windows.

Freshman Noah Joyner, 18, said he was shaken by the lockdown. Joyner hunkered down in a bathroom of his dorm building and heard others desperate to get in when reports of the active shooter spread.

"There were like people banging on the doors to have somebody let them in," said Joyner, a swimmer at the college. "It was pretty terrifying to hear people banging on the door." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **There were like people banging on the doors to ... let them in**
> Noah Joyner

AUSTRALIA

Ruling party picks rival to replace PM

Australia's ruling conservatives ousted beleaguered Prime Minister Tony Abbott as party leader Monday evening in a change that could signal a different Australian response to climate change and allow for a more moderate agenda that could include recognition of gay marriage.

Liberal Party members voted 54 to 44 to replace Abbott with former party leader and Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull, who had called for the leadership ballot just hours earlier amid flagging opinion polls for the two-year-old conservative coalition government.

Turnbull split his coalition and lost the party leadership in 2009 over his support for a then-Labour Party government's proposal to make industrial polluters pay for the carbon gas emissions that they produced through an emissions permit trading scheme.

A coalition government under Abbott last year repealed a two-year-old carbon tax and replaced it with a policy of paying industrial polluters 2.55 billion Australian dollars ($1.8 billion US) in taxpayer-funded incentives to operate more cleanly. The policy imposes no financial penalty for polluting and critics say it won't be enough to reduce Australia's heavy reliance on abundant reserves of cheap coal to generate electricity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Bangkok bombing suspect has fled to Turkey: Police

A key suspect in the bombing at a Bangkok shrine that killed 20 people has fled to Turkey, Thai police said, in another indication that the attack could be the work of members of China's ethnic Uighur minority who have sympathizers in Turkey. Investigations revealed the man, carrying a Chinese passport in the name Abudureheman Abudusataer, left Thailand on Aug. 16 for Bangladesh, and police speculated he might have gone to China. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mom faces manslaughter, child-abuse charges

A Maryland woman who was found pushing her dead child in a playground swing earlier this year has been indicted and charged with manslaughter and child abuse. Authorities say 24-year-old Romechia Simms put her three-year-old child, Ji'Aire Donnell Lee, in a playground swing the morning of May 20 and left him there for two days. A medical examiner had previously ruled the boy died of dehydration and low body temperature. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Europe open-border concept unravelling

metro The Syrian Crisis
The flight

Several countries rush to stem flow of migrants

Migrants at Hungary's crowded border crossings with Austria and Serbia faced fear and uncertainty Monday as several European Union countries beefed up border controls in a precedent that could gut the bloc's cherished principle of free movement among most of its nations.

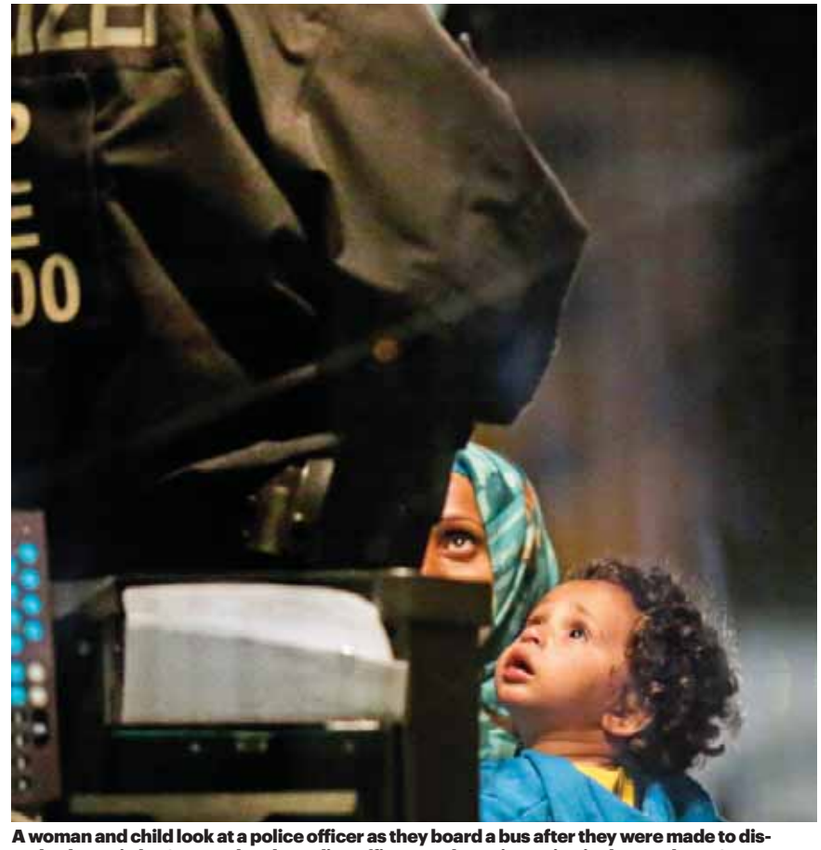
While Hungarian police patrolled their border fence on horseback and workers uncoiled the razor-wire and steel mesh that would finish it, Austria, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Slovakia all rushed to join Germany in tightening border controls.

The efforts created significant pressure points as the flow of people fleeing violence at home and trekking through the Balkans showed no sign of abating.

"Hurry up! They're letting us through!" some shouted in Arabic at a checkpoint near Roszke, Hungary, as police blocked a rail line where thousands had entered the country, funnelling the migrants to waiting buses.

Elsewhere, bottlenecks developed at the Austrian border town of Nickelsdorf, where a police spokesman said a main highway had to be closed because up to 10,000 migrants were crossing in from Hungary. Germany's border checks also caused traffic jams Monday as long as 20 kilometres on highways in Austria.

German police said they will conduct rolling checkpoints on major roads coming from Austria but will not check every vehicle and driver for passports. Hungary, however, was introducing much harsher border controls at midnight — laws that could send smugglers to prison and deport migrants who cut under Hungary's new razor-wire border fence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A woman and child look at a police officer as they board a bus after they were made to disembark a train by German border police officers at the train station in the southern German border town of Passau, Monday. MARKUS SCHREIBER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **Hurry up! They're letting us through!**
> Heard at a checkpoint near Roszke, Hungary

EGYPT

Troops fire on tour group, killing 12

Egyptian forces hunting militants in the country's western desert mistakenly opened fire on Mexican tourists on safari, killing 12 people and dealing a further blow to the government's efforts to project an image of stability as it fights an increasingly powerful insurgency, officials said Monday.

Egyptian officials said the group did not have permission to be in the area, but have not offered a full account of Sunday's incident, in which another 10 people were wounded. Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto condemned the attack and demanded a full investigation, and his foreign minister said survivors told officials they were fired upon by helicopters and other aircraft.

With six Mexicans wounded, that would at least leave five unaccounted for, as reports vary on whether there were 14 or 15 tourists in the group.

Egypt has mainly been battling insurgents in the northern Sinai Peninsula, on the other side of the country, where Islamic militants stepped up attacks on security forces after the military ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi in 2013.

But in recent months, militants loyal to the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant have carried out a series of attacks in more central parts of the country, including the bombing of the Italian Consulate in Cairo and the kidnapping and beheading of a Croatian oil surveyor who was working in the capital.

In Mexico City, Egypt's Ambassador Yasser Shaban suggested that the Egyptian troops were confused because vehicles used by the tourists were "similar to those used by terrorists." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DESERT GUIDE

Witness suggests motive

A desert guide who witnessed the strike said it appeared to have been linked to the kidnapping of a local resident Saleh Qassim Said by militants two days earlier. On Sunday the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant group's Egypt affiliate circulated photos purportedly showing what it said was the beheaded body of Said.

School a drain on parents

SHOPPING

Tab averages $3,000 to $4,500 a year, study suggests

For the Steinfelds, a family of six living in the Toronto area, buying school supplies for their daughter heading into Grade 1 wasn't as simple as shopping for a knapsack and a few pencils.

"Monster High pencils, My Little Pony erasers, Barbie-branded supplies is what she wants," says Daniel Steinfeld, a local consultant and father of four children ages 6, 3, 2 and two months. "As the kids get older, they increasingly want what's 'cool' and we do our best to try to teach them the difference between needs versus wants."

School supplies are just the onset of expenses that drain parents' pockets. Between lunches, clothes, extra-curricular activities and birthday parties, parents are likely to spend between $3,000 to $4,500 a year, according to a 2013 Fraser Institute paper.

School supplies are featured at Staples replica dorm room desk setup during a back-to-school media event in Toronto. BRIAN B. BETTENCOURT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

With their two eldest children outgrowing new clothes once or twice a year, wardrobe costs the Steinfelds the most. "With such ever-changing weather in Toronto, the need for several wardrobes per kid makes the cost that much greater," adds mother Katie Steinfeld.

As children move into middle school and high school, expenses become more cumbersome, with cellphones and data charges added to the mix, says Sarah Widmeyer, managing director and head of Wealth Advisory Services for Toronto-based CIBC.

"There's a 'latte factor' that comes into play once kids start having a cellphone and start buying apps," says Widmeyer. "A few dollars on a cellphone application may not seem like a lot, but it's an attitude that can quickly grow out of hand if parents don't stay on top of it."

This is why every expense should be an opportunity to involve kids in the financial conversation, adds Widmeyer. "Without solid discussion and learning around budgeting, the differences between needs and wants, children can end up viewing their parents as a personal ATM machine."

And it can go on as children grow older. More than 50 per cent of post-secondary students will end up asking their parents for additional financial support throughout school year because they've run out of money, according to an August poll of 1,000 parents CIBC conducted. Despite this, 86 per cent of parents believe they are good financial role models for their children.

The reality is that it's tough for parents to say no when they can afford to say yes, says Patricia Lovett-Reid, chief financial commentator for CTV News. "It can be difficult to teach your kids financial tough love, especially if it comes out of nowhere."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Auto veteran joins Google
Google is adding a veteran automotive executive, former Hyundai and Ford Motor Co. executive John Krafcik, to run its program focused on developing self-driving cars.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nintendo picks new chief
Nintendo has named a long-serving executive as president following the death in July of Satoru Iwata. It said a board meeting had decided to appoint Tatsumi Kimishima, 65, as president of the video game maker.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

market minute

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TSX 13,353.34 (-108.13)
OIL $44.00 US (-63¢)
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ECONOMY

Tories balance books

The federal government posted a surprise $1.9-billion surplus in 2014-15 — bringing the country's books back into balance a year earlier than expected.

The Finance Department released year-end figures Monday for a period that was supposed to instead generate a $2.0-billion shortfall.

The number ends a streak of six deficits under the Conservatives and is certain to reverberate on the campaign trail.

The Finance Department said the $3.9-billion swing from the expected shortfall to surplus was largely due to higher revenue — from personal and corporate income taxes — that rang in $3 billion higher than projected as well as positive year-end adjustments.

The report also found expenditures were lower. Program spending was $800 million lower than forecast, while public debt charges were $100 million lower than expected.

The Finance Department noted the 2014-15 surplus follows the $5.2-billion deficit posted by Ottawa in 2013-14.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TECHNOLOGY

Strong demand for new iPhones: Apple

Preorders for its latest iPhone have been so strong that Apple expects to surpass last year's record, when it sold 10 million phones during the first weekend.

Apple began taking preorders for the iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus on Saturday.

The new models, which go on sale Sept. 25, have more memory and faster processors, along with a new 12 mega-pixel camera. The phones have not gone up in price, but last year's record-selling iPhone 6 and 6 Plus models will now sell for $100 US less.

"As many customers noticed, the online demand for iPhone 6s Plus has been exceptionally strong and exceeded our own forecasts for the preorder period," Apple said. "We are working to catch up as quickly as we can, and we will have iPhone 6s Plus as well as iPhone 6s units available at Apple retail stores when they open next Friday."

The Apple iPhone 6s.
COURTESY APPLE

The iPhone is still Apple's most important product. Sales of the iconic smartphone contributed more than two-thirds of the company's $107 billion US in revenue during the first half of 2015.

The newest product from Apple arrives as smartphone sales slow globally, with so many people already carrying them. But researchers at IDC, an industry data provider, say that iPhone sales are growing faster than those of its rival, Android. IDC expects iPhone shipments to grow by 16 per cent this year, while it estimates Android phones will grow only 10 per cent.

Analysts said demand is being boosted partly by China, which is being included in the initial launch for the first time. Piper Jaffray analyst Gene Munster said he expects China to add two million units to the opening weekend.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro VIEWS

That's nuts: Thanks to a warm winter and dire drought, some California pistachio farmers are reporting up to 90% 'blanks' — empty shells with no fatty green meat inside.

EMMA TEITEL: ON MILLENNIALS AND MISTAKES

No greater deterrent exists to youth involvement in politics than the current obsession with who said what or did what on the Internet.

Would you pee into a coffee mug? And if that coffee mug belonged to a complete stranger, would you rinse it out in his or her kitchen sink sans dish soap?

Thanks to a federal election rife with bizarre scandal, these questions have been weighing on my mind lately. And I've come to an uncomfortable conclusion.

It's (remotely) possible that I, too, like Jerry Bance, the former Conservative candidate and former contractor caught urinating into a homeowner's coffee mug on CBC's Marketplace in 2012, might urinate one day in the wrong receptacle. Because like Bance and his contemporaries — Canadian political candidates who have erred on camera and online — I am a human being prone to strange stupidity.

Like Ala Buzreba, former Liberal candidate in the riding of Calgary-Nose Hill who recently resigned from her post after it was revealed she made offensive comments on Twitter as a teen, I have written questionable things in a public forum (see this column).

Like Katherine Swampy, an NDP candidate running in Alberta's Battle River-Crowfoot riding, I have posted numerous regrettable photos and statements on Facebook. Swampy is in the hot seat this month for explicit comments she made on Facebook in 2011 and an Instagram photo — also outdated — in which her husband is seen pointing a gun the NDP has since claimed is a toy.

Mind you, unlike former Toronto-Danforth Conservative candidate Tim Dutaud (who, like Bance and Buzreba, has also dropped out of the race) I have never faked an orgasm on YouTube in the name of comedy. But tomorrow is another day.

It appears this election campaign is inextricably linked to a series of technology-driven scandals. And these scandals are disturbing not because they reveal a gross or grossly immoral streak in the political candidates involved, but because they foretell instant doom for anyone under the age of 30 who would like to get into politics.

CAREER DOWN THE TOILET **Like so many with indiscretions preserved online, former Conservative candidate Jerry Bance will forever be known for peeing in a homeowner's cup.**
SCREEN GRAB/CBC MARKETPLACE

Millennials — boomerang kids, ingrates, whatever the current term is for people aged 18-33 — are not universally prone to peeing in the wrong places and tweeting obscenities.

But considering that our digital trail was spawned in preadolescence, chances are that at least one of us has done one or more of these things (and worse) at some point, and that these indiscretions have been preserved, like dinosaur DNA, for eternity.

From where I sit, no greater deterrent exists to youth involvement in politics than the current obsession with who said what or did what on the Internet, especially when you said or did it in a fifth-dimension bizarro world — i.e. high school.

Couldn't a 20-something would-be prime minister purge incriminating material of herself from the Internet? I recently found a video on Facebook, in which I am obviously drunk and attempting to sing a Dubstep remix of a Hilary Duff song — a video I had no idea existed (maybe because I don't remember it happening), a video I have tried and failed to erase, repeatedly.

Missteps like Swampy's and Buzreba's will likely increase tenfold when younger generations start running for politics.

The difference though, is that when they do, good candidates — not just nutty fringe ones — will have to step away from promising careers for no other reason than that they are normal people with social lives and an Internet connection. Which is a shame because none of us, save for the truly prudish, partisan or humourless, is genuinely incensed when someone makes a stupid mistake in a public forum — a mistake that injures no one but him or herself (except in the case of Jerry Bance and the homeowner who, let us pray, did not drink out of that mug).

We could hope, of course, that there are so many Internet-driven scandals in the future that they cancel each other out; when everyone's dirty laundry is waving in the air it's imprudent to tell the person next to you he smells bad. But in case they don't, I'd like to propose a new system whereby we judge candidates not by their past mistakes but by the nature of their repentance. Given the opportunity to make things right, do they apologize sincerely and even gracefully, or do they prove to be as clueless and obnoxious as their initial sins indicated?

Are they contrite, or do they double down the same way disgraced Hydro One employee, Shawn Simoes of #FHRITP notoriety did? Chances are, had Simoes apologized immediately after City reporter Shawna Hunt called him out for being a boor, instead of suggesting she was lucky she didn't have a vibrator in her ear, his public shaming would not have been nearly as devastating, nor deserved.

Whether we like to admit it or not, clean slates are extinct. Here's to second chances.

Emma Teitel is a national columnist for the Toronto Star. She has been a front-of-the-book columnist for Maclean's magazine for the past four years, focusing on a wide range of subjects including women's issues and popular culture. She won the National Magazine Awards gold award for columns in 2013.

YOUR RIDE

Aside from noise, emissions and traffic, trucks pose a threat

Kathryn Hunt

Every time I see pedestrians at a street corner stepping back to avoid the side of a tractor trailer making a right turn, or I'm passed on my bicycle by a vehicle that weighs 36,000 kilograms, or I get stuck in traffic waiting for a semi to negotiate backing into a loading zone downtown, I wonder what they're doing in the city at all.

In New York City, for example, there is a law requiring tractor trailers longer than 55 feet (16.8 metres) to have a day permit to use surface roads. Ottawa, meanwhile, has a seasonal load restriction to reduce damage to the roads during the spring thaw, but otherwise heavy vehicles are actually forced through the city by a highway system that connects Quebec and Ontario highways via surface streets (and connects highway off-ramps directly to residential streets).

Besides the noise, emissions and traffic holdups, trucks can be dangerous, especially if the drivers are already tense or impatient from trying to negotiate small streets.

Just one example: Darlene McLeod lives overlooking Bank Street. She's used to trucks using Bank as a route on and off the highway. But she recalls recently hearing a truck driver clearly leaning on his horn. When she looked outside, she saw two cyclists riding by: one looked steady, but the other shaken.

"She lost her balance and struggled to regain it, swerving toward the parked cars on the east side of Bank Street and stopping her bike with her foot on the ground. The horn was still sounding as the transport truck, moving the body of a crane north on Bank Street, sped past her, assuredly travelling faster than the 40 km/h speed limit," McLeod told me.

She said the cyclist could have died. "She had the presence of mind and the good fortune to not wobble into the path of the truck driver, who showed no regard for her life."

A whole lot of freight is moved around this continent by truck. Maybe crane segments, as in this case, require a large truck, but that could be the exception. Couldn't divisible cargo be loaded onto smaller trucks outside the city? That might even save wear and tear on large engines that aren't designed for stop-and-go traffic. And it would be a lot safer for everyone else.

Kathryn Hunt @k8thek8 is a writer, editor of Centretown BUZZ, storyteller, poet, cycling blogger, rock climber, mysterious techno vixen (confirmed) and geek. Not necessarily in that order. You can read her cycling blog at theincidentalcyclist.blogspot.ca.

Rosemary Westwood will return.

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Jean-Marc Vallée wants to direct Amy Adams as Janis Joplin

Jason Wu's key colours were dark forest green, dark rust and a little bit of pink. ALL PHOTOS: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wu puts a spin on 1950s feminine

ON THE RUNWAY

Ruffles and fringe feature heavily in Jason Wu's show

Ruffles can be flouncy and fanciful, but they can also be understated and sophisticated, as they were for Jason Wu at his New York Fashion Week runway show.

The Taiwanese-Canadian designer — who's famous for producing both of Michelle Obama's inaugural gowns — went for muted colours like forest green, rust, and trusty old black, although he mixed it up with some bright fuchsia and shiny silver, too.

The show had a mid-century feel, inspired by both furniture and photographs of the period.

Wu also favoured fringe, as in his first garment down the runway — an elegant fringed coat in that deep forest green.

Backstage, Wu said he felt "very, very inspired" for this collection — by themes like mid-century furniture and the photographs of John Rawlings, a prominent fashion photographer who worked from the 1930s to the 1960s.

"I wanted to kind of put that forward in a modern way through my (own) lenses," he said.

Wu also noted that it was fun to be among the earlier shows at Fashion Week, which runs through Sept. 17.

"It's always good to be one of the first to show," he said. "I kind of feel like we kick the season off."

Among Wu's front-row fans on Friday: actress Patina Miller, a Tony winner for Pippin who's also featured in the CBS drama Madam Secretary and in the Mockingjay movies.

"I love that he just thinks of everything, you know?" said Miller, who was wearing a deep blue Wu creation.

"It's relaxed, it's beautiful, but it's always so chic and there's sort of a simple quality to the stuff that's really amazing, that I am drawn to. And I just think he gets it right."

Wu set up his label in 2006 but famously hit the big time when First Lady Michelle Obama wore one of his gowns to the inaugural ball in 2009.

Today his clothes are sold by more than 170 retailers worldwide, and worn by the likes of Oscar winners Reese Witherspoon and Julianne Moore, and model Christy Turlington.

But there's still one woman Wu has on his bucket list to dress. "I'd love to dress Cate Blanchett," he said on Friday.

The 46-year-old actress, mother of four and two-time Oscar winner is currently earning fresh Academy Award buzz for playing a bisexual woman in 1950s New York in her latest film Carol, which premiered at Cannes this summer.

"I just think she's so chic," he said.

"She's somebody that embodies everything that's inspiring — great actress, great poise, sophisticated style."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS WITH FILES FROM AFP

THE LOOK

An edgy take on glamour

Sophisticated style is what Jason Wu is all about.

Here are some of the highlights from his show:

- Wu called his collection "glamour" channeling the looks of the 1950s.
- Wu says he wanted a ruffle that wasn't overly "prissy" and paired the feminine look with frayed edges and fringing.
- Ruffles featured at the hems of skirts, on the shoulders and around the throat of his designs.
- Another standout was Wu's sharply tailored summer suiting with fringed micro shorts. AFP

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DETAILS AT JUMPRADIO.CA

Gigi Hadid, Karlie Kloss (shown here backstage) and Kendall Jenner were all featured in the Diane von Furstenberg show at New York Fashion Week. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

It-Girl Squad on the catwalk

NEW YORK FASHION WEEK

Were all the top models at Diane von Furstenberg?

Talk about a girl squad.

Karlie Kloss opened it, Gigi Hadid closed it, and sprinkled in between Diane von Furstenberg's New York Fashion Week show Sunday was a who's who of the latest crop of supermodels, including Kendall Jenner, Gigi's sister Bella Hadid, Irina Shyak, Lily Aldridge and Jourdan Dunn.

> **I love women at the beginning of their life.**
>
> Diane von Furstenberg, on her selection of models

"I love women at the beginning of their life," von Furstenberg said when asked why she chose these particular models.

"This collection is about celebration of woman, beauty, freedom and nature."

The show certainly felt like a celebration as celeb attendees including Kate Upton, Victoria Justice and Tori Kelly, danced along to music by Drake and The Weeknd, whose hit, Can't Feel My Face, closed out the show (the pop singer, who is dating Bella Hadid, was also in attendance).

The collection had a 1970s nostalgic feel thanks to metallic golds, mixed prints, jumpsuits and high-waisted suits.

You could almost picture von Furstenberg dancing at Studio 54 like the days of old in all of these looks — they've just been updated for the modern woman with shades of pink, black embellished with gold detailing and white with pops of colour.

"It's a lot about the details. It's about the patching. It's the freedom. It's the easiness. It's (for) a woman to feel like a goddess," said the famously candid designer.

She then added with a laugh: "My daughter says I have no filter. I don't want to have a filter."

Von Furstenberg said the collection was inspired by the first painting she ever bought.

She debuted her iconic wrap dress in 1974 and says the key to her longevity is reinvention and enjoying the journey.

And the designer certainly seemed to be enjoying it as she danced around the runway, once her show wrapped, greeting friends and smiling the entire time. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Right: Pieces from Victoria Beckham's new collection.

THE ORIGINAL GIRL POWER

Ex- Spice Girl Beckham debuts 'carefree' line

Call it an all-new Victoria Beckham.

Her latest collection, which debuted Sunday at New York Fashion Week, is an homage to her "carefree attitude." Bohemian flowing tops, skirts and dresses ruled the runway in knits, silk, leather and suede. And this time, no signature sky-high stilettos, but rather flats, kitten heels and sandals.

"It's been really liberating and easy," Beckham said about designing the collection. A fashion-forward gingham pattern also appeared on everything from jackets to skirts to dresses.

One couldn't help but wonder whether her son, Brooklyn, 16, who attended, and has made his own splash in the fashion world modelling for high-end brands, influences his mother's taste.

"He doesn't, really," Beckham said as her son looked on during backstage interviews. "He is really supportive. He's been with me the last few days because he's here in New York. ... It's great to have young, fresh and cool people around." THE ASSOCIATE PRESS

The Beckhams and Anna Wintour check out the action on the runway. RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Futuristic fantasy

Flesh-baring designs and technology rule at Chromat, a designer brand with fans like Beyoncé, Taylor Swift and Madonna

POWER PLAY

"We want to design clothes that a woman can run 10 blocks in," Chromat designer Becca McCharen said after the show.

Models of all sizes strutted at the Chromat show at New York Fashion Week this past weekend, donning the line's signature pieces which include bikinis, dresses, sportswear and structured cages.

"We want to design clothes that a woman can run 10 blocks in. That's always the goal: To make people feel strong and that they can do anything," said designer Becca McCharen, who is also an architect. "It's always been strong, powerful women in every field and every body size, every gender spectrum."

Black, red, blue and white dominated the collection, which also featured pieces that used Intel technology to change the shape of the garment depending on various elements such as the body temperature.

"The collection was inspired by how we can use sportswear to power the body and how we can make the body stronger through clothes," said McCharen. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

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NEW YORK FASHION WEEK

Playful buzz at Kate Spade

Kate Spade created the chicest corner store in town for the brand's New York Fashion Week presentation.

"It's a celebration of when that spring finally breaks and you run to the bodega for your first flowers — bees are buzzing," said Deborah Lloyd, Kate Spade chief creative officer.

The presentation space was flooded with colourful flowers and guests were treated to mini bouquets of fresh cut roses along with bagels and coffee.

Models wearing bright yellows, corals and pinks held playful wicker hand bags shaped like bees, puppies and teapots.

Kate Spade's ice cream truck clutch. GETTY IMAGES

Actress Anna Kendrick was on hand for the spring-themed soiree.

Though she's appeared in Kate Spade campaigns, the Pitch Perfect star said she's no fashionista.

"No, not at all," said Kendrick. "I always feel like I'm never really clear on some of what is going on in fashion and I like that Kate Spade is really accessible and it sort of has a sense of humour about itself. It doesn't take itself too seriously." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOSSIP BRIEFS

Page brings GF to TIFF

Ellen Page brought a date to the premiere of her new movie Freeheld on Sunday night in Toronto, marking the red-carpet debut for the Canadian actress and girlfriend Samantha Thomas.

"I'm in love!" gushed Page to E! news about her relationship with Thomas, a multidisciplinary artist.

A photographer at the premiere remarked that Thomas' hand seemed fused to Page's back, and that every turn they made to the cameras they made in perfect sync. The petite actress also seemed much more at ease with Thomas by her side, and posed with her for quite a while before quickly allowing the photographers to grab a few shots of her solo. METRO

Thomas and Page on the red carpet at the Freeheld premiere. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

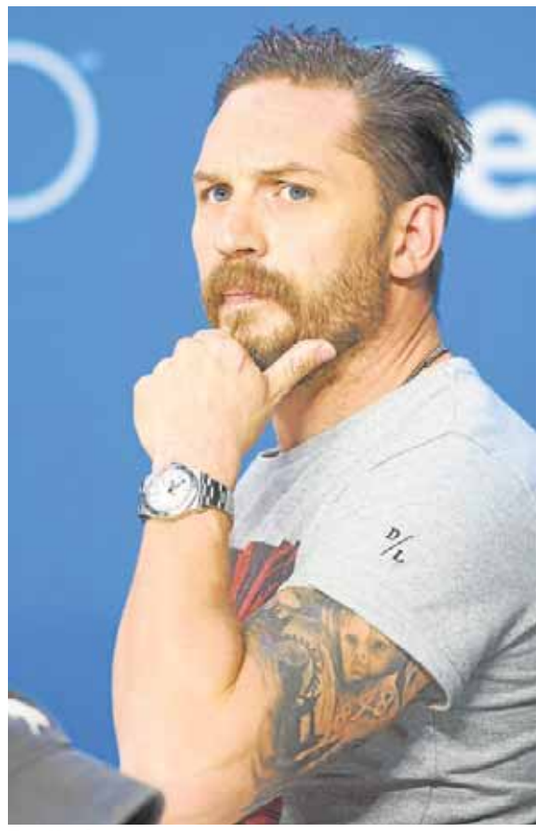
Bieber schooled by the pool

Justin Bieber, noted for always having something to prove, is facing some public embarrassment for getting schooled by pal Sam Shahidi in a beer-shotgunning contest at a pool party in Las Vegas. Just typing out that sentence means I need to get myself checked for hepatitis C.

Never one to shy away from defeat, some people's favourite Canadian posted a video of the challenge to Instagram, dismissing his failure with the caption, "I lost but I didn't go to college."

That's his excuse for everything. NED EHRBAR/METRO

GETTY IMAGES



Tom Hardy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tom tired of gay mag retread

JUNKET

Hardy is sick of explaining a misquote from seven years ago

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | TIFF

> **I don't find it difficult for celebrities to talk about their sexuality. Are you asking me about my sexuality?**
> Tom Hardy

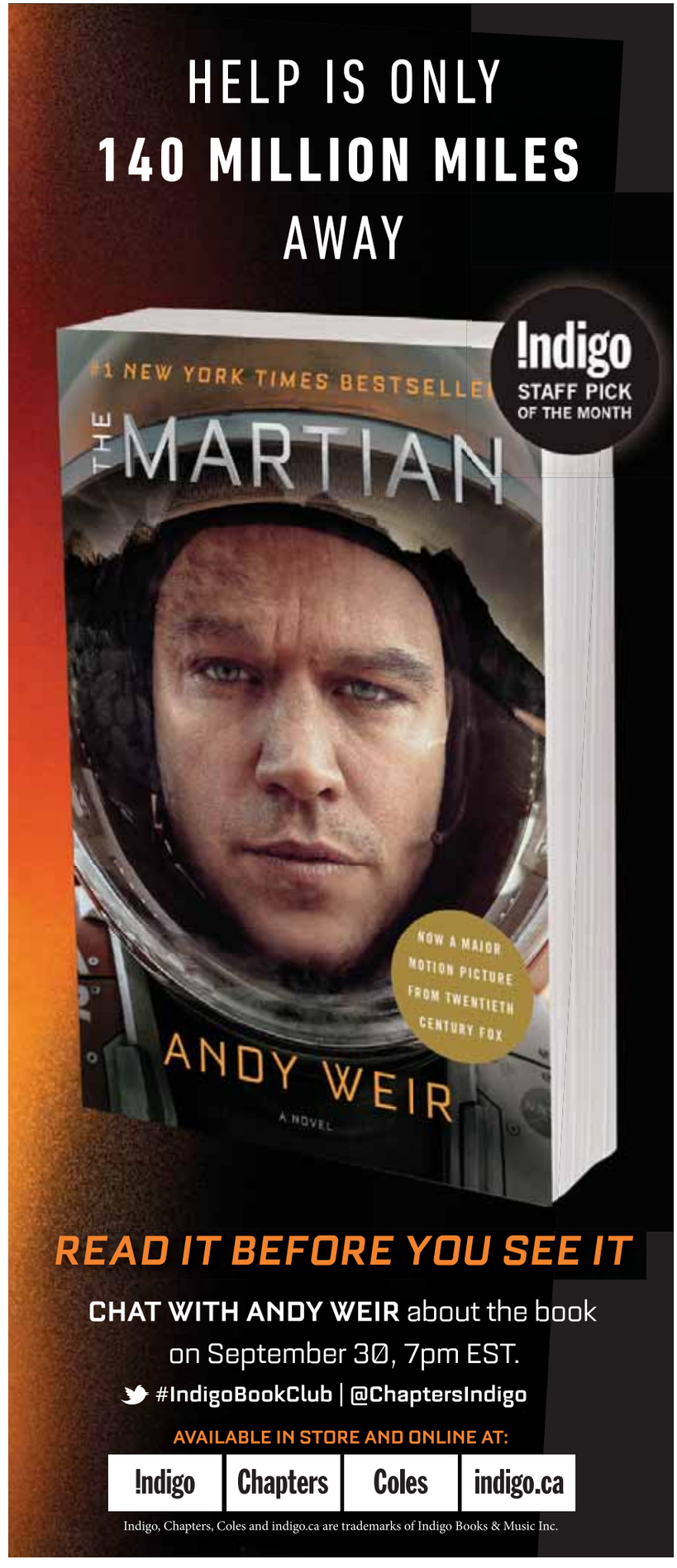
Tom Hardy is really tired of all this talk about quotes of his in a gay magazine back in 2008 that many took as an admission that he's bisexual. Like, really, really tired.

Just look at how he reacts to a pesky reporter bringing up the topic once again at the Toronto International Film Festival press conference for his film Legend, in which he plays twin gangster brothers Ron and Reggie Kray — one of whom is gay.

"In the film, your character Ronnie is very open about his sexuality but given interviews you've done in the past, your own sexuality seems a bit more ambiguous," the reporter asked.

"Do you find it hard for celebrities to talk to media about their sexuality?" What followed was a bit of a tense back and forth, starting with Hardy asking, "What are you on about?" before the journalist tried reiterating the question.

"I don't find it difficult for celebrities to talk about their sexuality. Are you asking me about my sexuality?" Hardy asked. "Why?" And then he capped it off with a curt "thank you."



metro SPORTS

Paul Pogba and Juventus travel to Manchester City as UEFA's Champions League group stage gets underway today

Searching for clues to solve 'the invisible injury'

HEAD TRAUMA

Experts closing in on diagnostic breakthroughs for concussions

The Carolina Panthers won their season opener 20-9 over the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday but star linebacker Luke Kuechly left in the second quarter with a concussion. BOB LEVERONE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

It's a confounding reality of what remains an invisible injury.

Broken bones show up on X-rays, torn muscles on an MRI. But a concussion can't yet be detected by an easy diagnostic test. Some of the world's best experts hope that will change soon enough.

"Maybe some day soon we're going to be able to diagnose a concussion with a blood test, just like you can diagnose a heart attack with a blood test," Dr. Charles Tator, a Toronto neurosurgeon and concussion expert says. "I'm sufficiently optimistic that that is going to happen."

Indeed, research by at least a couple of U.S. companies suggests the veil might be lifted by measuring for levels of protein in the blood, so-called biomarkers, that become elevated by brain trauma. Such tests, if proven useful in clinical trials, could help doctors determine the severity of a concussion and monitor recovery.

There is also hope that a blood test could one day determine the existence of chronic traumatic encephalopathy a degenerative brain disease linked to repetitive head injury that has been found post-mortem in the brains of several former pro football and hockey players.

"I honestly would be disappointed if within the next three or four years we don't have a biomarker for concussion," said Dr. Robert Cantu, the Boston-area neurosurgeon, "just as I would be very disappointed if in the next three or four years we don't have a biomarker developed for CTE."

Dr. Tator said he was recently involved in publishing research that showed that an MRI can detect brain damage in patients who had repeat concussions.

"That was a bit of a breakthrough," Dr. Tator said.

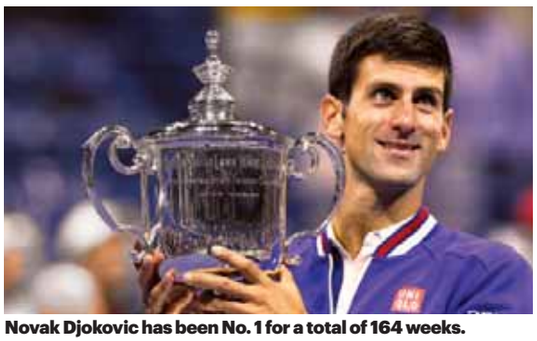
But only one in what many hope will be a line of breakthroughs to come.

"Right now concussion is the invisible injury. We call it that. Patients and family are aware of that term. But we're hoping with further research it's not going to be an invisible injury," Dr. Tator said. "We hope we'll be able to show people, here's your MRI, you can see this area of the brain isn't working so well. That'll be an important breakthrough."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TENNIS

Djokovic remains atop year-end men's rankings



Novak Djokovic has been No. 1 for a total of 164 weeks.
KENA BETANCUR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Novak Djokovic's U.S Open title allowed him to clinch the year-end No. 1 ranking for the fourth time.

The ATP announced Monday, a day after Djokovic's 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 victory over No. 2 Roger Federer in the final at Flushing Meadows, that the 28-year-old Serbian would add 2015 to 2011, 2012 and 2014 as seasons he finished atop the rankings.

"Knowing I will end the year at No. 1 keeps my mind relaxed," Djokovic said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I have achieved a lot so far in the season, and I hope I can deliver the same game for the rest of the year."

CANADIANS

Milos Raonic of Thornhill, Ont., rose one spot to No. 9 while Vasek Pospisil of Vancouver fell one position to No. 46. Eugenie Bouchard of Westmount, Que., fell one spot to No. 26 in the women's rankings.

He is 63-5 with seven titles, including three at Grand Slam tournaments, and has reached the final at each of his past 11 events. Djokovic beat Andy Murray in the Australian Open final, lost to Stan Wawrinka in the French Open final, then beat Federer in the finals at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

Djokovic is currently in his third stay at No. 1, for a total of 164 weeks, the sixth most in the history of the computer rankings that began in 1973. Federer holds the record of 302.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Manning admits mistake

Eli Manning is taking the blame for two late blunders that led to the New York Giants' collapse against the Dallas Cowboys.

After losing track of Dallas' timeouts, Manning says — on his own — he told halfback Rashad Jennings not to score on two consecutive plays when the Giants had a first down at the Cowboys four-yard line with 1:54 to play. The Cowboys won 27-26 on a last-minute TD.

Manning believed Dallas had one timeout remaining when it had two.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$4 billion

The Dallas Cowboys are the most valuable sports franchise in the world at a worth of $4 billion, according to Forbes magazine.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Payet capitalizes for Hammers vs. Newcastle

Dimitri Payet scored early in each half to give West Ham a 2-0 win over Newcastle in the Premier League on Monday.

Payet capped a sweeping move in the ninth minute by curling a shot into the top corner, and then doubled the lead in the 48th from a rebound after Victor Moses ran almost the length of the field before smashing a shot against crossbar.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dimitri Payet slotted both the Hammers' goals on Monday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Moroccan Couscous with Apricots, Dried Cranberries and Almonds

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

Ready in
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 7 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 cup couscous
- 1 cup water or stock
- 2 tsp oil
- 1 cup diced onion
- 1 cup diced red pepper
- 1 1/2 tsp minced garlic
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp cumin
- 1/4 tsp ground ginger
- 1 cup canned chick peas, drained and rinsed
- 1/3 cup dried apricots, diced
- 1/3 cup dried cranberries or raisins
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 3 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp grated lemon zest
- Salt and pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 1/3 cup toasted slivered almonds

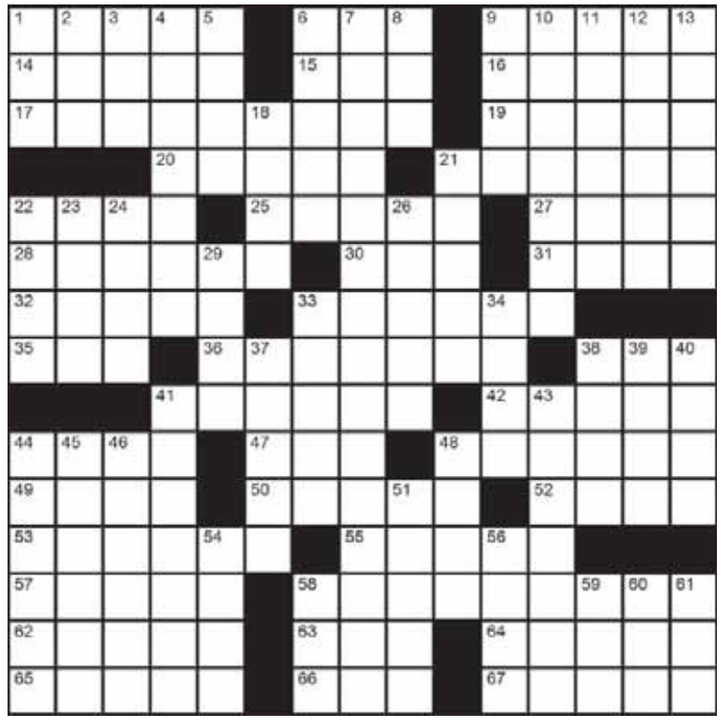
Directions
1. Bring water or stock to a boil. Add couscous, mix, remove from heat and keep covered for five minutes. Add to serving bowl.
2. Meanwhile, in a small skillet, heat 2 tsp oil. Add onion and sauté for five minutes. Add red pepper, garlic, cinnamon, cumin and ginger and sauté for two minutes. Add to couscous along with chick peas, apricots, cranberries, olive oil, lemon juice and zest, salt and pepper and cilantro. Garnish with almonds.

Nutrition per serving (recipe serves 6)
- Calories 260
- Protein 7 g
- Carbohydrates 40 g
- Fibre 7 g
- Total fat 10 g
- Saturated fat 1 g
- Cholesterol 0 mg
- Sodium 50 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Vaulted church recesses
6. Ms. Gardner
9. Irene who Sherlock Holmes admired
14. Georges Bizet's operatic priestess
15. Zilch
16. Family member
17. Counterparts/ analogues
19. Land stretch
20. Motionless
21. Not married
22. Help the criminal
25. Bounded
27. Union payments
28. Actor, Joseph Gordon-__
30. Long-snouted fish
31. For fear that
32. __ pad (Office item)
33. Entrapments
35. Canoe implement
36. Clever retort
38. "Chandelier" singer
41. Ready information for Internet display
42. Dithers
44. Saint-Louis-du-__! _! (Quebec municipality)
47. Patch up
48. Money, informally
49. Urgent situation [abbr.]
50. Top rate
52. Meddlesome [var. sp.]
53. Miami baseball player
55. Condemns
57. Michael Keaton's stay-at-home-dad comedy: 2 wds.
58. Wild carnivorous hybrid canids that are highly adaptable and are known to secretly dwell in cities and suburbs as well as the country
62. Put into law
63. Wonderment
64. Skincare brand
65. 'Fire Music': Current album by Canadian hard rock band __ Jones
66. '60s hallucinogen
67. Shapewear brand

DOWN
1. Mount
2. The Princess and the __
3. Lady's love
4. Springy stuff in skin
5. Pretzel particle
6. Anoint, olde-style
7. What the NWT community of Deline became known as after men from there (who worked as porters for the uranium mine at Port Radium during WWII) died from cancer: 3 wds.
8. Mr. Gore's
9. Opposing
10. Full skirt styles
11. 'L' of MLB
12. The Hollies' "Jennifer __"
13. Check once more
18. Cheerful tune
21. Prance
22. Additionally
23. __-Carotene
24. By any chance
26. "Crazy" singer Ms. Cline
29. Ruptured
33. Sales pitch
34. Currency in Chile
37. Norwegian playwright Henrik
38. Fodder structure
39. "Count __ __ a blessing."
40. Greyish
41. Malefic magic man, maybe
43. __-__ shower mat
44. Shortened, as pants
45. Egypt: Ancient cuneiform excavation site near the Nile River
46. Lily Munster's hubby
48. Cat call
51. Considered
54. "For __ __ be Queen o' the May, mother..." - Tennyson
56. Criminal associations
58. Li'l dietary number
59. U.S. gov. radio service
60. 'East' suffix
61. "__ and the City"

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You may be convinced that a course of action is correct but the strength of someone's opposition will make you second guess it. Maybe you should give it a bit more thought.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
An opportunity to improve a partnership or relationship could be missed. Focus on it to the exclusion of everything else. Career issues and money matters may seem important but in the greater scheme of things they don't count for much.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you have a favour to ask, now is the time. Everyone wants to help you today. You would be foolish not to take advantage of it.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
If what you previously thought was a brilliant idea has come to nothing, abandon it. You may be tempted to give it another go but is it worth it? Probably not.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
A light-hearted approach is called for today, especially if you tend to get uptight about things over which you have no control. Whether you laugh or cry the outcome will be the same.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will find it almost impossible to get started today. For a workaholic like you this may be worrying but remember, it's not the quantity of work you get done that matters but the quality. Do just one thing really well.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Something you thought was a permanent part of your world will disappear today but there is no need to feel sad. By creating space in your life you will encourage something even better to come in and fill it.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may be unaware that someone is annoyed with you but you're about to find out. If a loved one or work colleague gives you a hard time today — was it something you said or did?

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Try not to be so self-critical. If something has not worked out the way you expected it to, well, that's just the way it is. You may have failed but it's all good experience.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Jupiter in the wealth area of your chart puts you in a strong position where finances are concerned. If a deal has to be made you should be the one calling the shots — and making the most profit.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
A disappointment may be hard to take but the pain will fade eventually. There are still plenty of things that inspire you, so pick one and throw yourself at it body, mind and soul.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
There are so many serious things going on around you that others are unlikely to be in the mood for fun and games. That's okay, you can entertain yourself well enough.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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